

REMARKS

Applicants submit the following remarks in response to the Office Action dated November 18, 2008. Entry and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

A. Status of Claims

Claims 23-55 are pending in the application.

Upon entry of this paper, Claims 23, 24, 26-30, and 33-53 will be amended, Claim 25 will be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 23, 24, and 26-55 will be pending.

Claims 23 and 24 are rejected, while Claims 25-55 are objected to.

B. Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 6,177,888 to Cabot et al. ("Cabot")

To facilitate prosecution, independent Claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 25. Accordingly, Claim 23 and its dependent claims are believed to be in allowable form.

C. Response to Objections

Claims 25-55 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Office has indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As noted above, Applicants submit that Claim 23 has been amended herein to include the features of Claim 25. Accordingly, Claim 23 and its dependent claims are believed to be in allowable form.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection of claims, and allowance of this application.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-4827, Order No. 5106-0003.

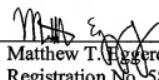
In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No 50-4827, Order No. 5106-0003.

Respectfully submitted,

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